ABSTRACT

The invention provides a method for assessing risk of a neurodegenerative disease or disorder in a subject. The method comprises comparing a level of anti-amyloid peptide antibody in a biological sample from a subject to a normal level, wherein a lower level in the biological sample from the subject indicates the presence of the disease or disorder. In a specific embodiment, the disease or disorder is Alzheimer's Disease (AD); in a further specific embodiment, the amyloid peptide is β-amyloid-42 ($A\beta_{42}$).

In addition, the discovery that certain neurodegenerative diseases or disorders are associated with a deficiency of anti-amyloid antibodies provides a method of treating such a disease or disorder in a subject. This method comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a human anti-amyloid peptide antibody to a subject believed to suffer from the immune deficiency or disorder. For example, the disease or disorder can be Alzheimer's Disease (AD). In such an embodiment, the amyloid peptide can be β-amyloid-42 ($A\beta_{42}$).